

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, further examination and reconsideration of the rejection in the Office Action of September 16, 2008 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

In item 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino et al. (US 7,237,029) in view of Okada et al. (US 2003/0229894) and Mori et al. (US 7,228,061). This rejection is moot with respect to claims 2 and 5 in view of their cancellation. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 have been amended to further distinguish the present invention over the prior art of record. Thus, this rejection is inapplicable to claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-8 for the reasons below, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 recites an apparatus for displaying images using a TV receiver and a remote controller having a first control means and a second control means, respectively, wherein a first display means and a second display means are operable to display images of one or more images as a two-dimensional array of thumbnail images, in which a first axis of the two-dimensional array represents a time period, and wherein the first control means and the second control means are operable to prevent the first display means and the second display means, respectively, from displaying a time period when no image from the time period exists in the recording medium. This is not disclosed by Hino, Mori, or Okada.

Hino discloses a first control means (*remote control terminal* of figure 78 in the Action) and a second control means (*network for cellular phone* and *contents management* in figure 77 in the Action) which are described at column 24, lines 10-42, and a first display means (not specifically identified in the Action, but implicit in the TV receiver) and a second display means (*remote control terminal* of figure 77 in the Action). However, there is no disclosure in Hino that the first display means and the second display means are operable to display images of the one or more images as a two-dimensional array of thumbnail images, in which a first axis of the two-dimensional array represents a time period, *and* wherein the first control means and the second control means are operable to prevent the first display means and the second display

means, respectively, from displaying a time period when no image from the time period exists in the recording medium.

The deficiencies of Hino are not obviated by Okada or Mori, nor were Okada or Mori relied on in the Office Action as disclosing the first control means and the second control means. Thus, the present invention as recited in claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by the combined disclosures of Hino, Okada, and Mori.

Further, claim 4 is patentable over the combination of Hino, Okada, and Mori for similar reasons to those discussed above in support of claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1 and 4, as well as claims 3 and 6-8 depending therefrom, are allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels that there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Takeshi HAYAKAWA

/Aldo A. D'Ottavio/

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Aldo A. D'Ottavio
Registration No. 59,559
Agent for Applicant

AAD/DMO/kh
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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